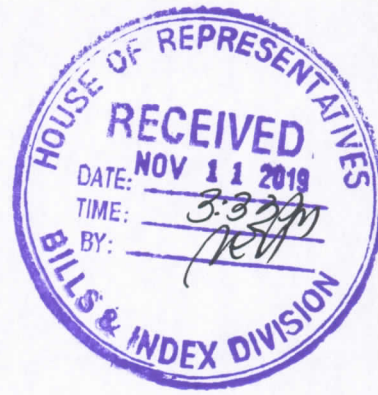


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City



**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 5416**

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**Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE LEONARDO L. BABASA, JR.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Kumalarang is a coastal municipality in the province of Zamboanga del Sur. It is known in the province as one of the best growers of finest crabs, prawns and various kinds of fishes. It has a total of 1,096.0 hectares of area currently operating and dedicated to fishponds with 386.5 tons of produce per year. Hence, it has become one of the sources of living of the local farmers thereat.

However, since there is no hatchery in the locality, farmers engaged in this livelihood are always confronted with high cost of fingerlings which are commonly sourced from neighboring provinces of Surigao, Zamboanga del Norte, Misamis Oriental and Occidental. Likewise, transporting these species results to low survival rate during seeding and growing period considering the distance and travel time spent.

In order to combat these risks, the establishment of a multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Kumalarang is essential. This marine hatchery will help boost high production output of the farmers while ensuring food sufficiency, with the end goal of catering to the needs of neighboring municipalities.

It is therefore recommended that the foregoing bill be approved.

  
**LEONARDO L. BABASA, JR**  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Zamboanga del Sur

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KUMALARANG, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in the Congress assembled:*

Section 1. There shall be established, under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA), a multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Kumalarang, Province of Zamboanga del Sur.

Section 2. The BFAR-DA shall, within three (3) years after the establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery, transfer the management of the same to the local government concerned through a Memorandum of Agreement. The BFAR-DA shall implement a training and phasing-in program for the LGU-Kumalarang personnel on the management and operation of the multi-species marine hatchery.

The BFAR-DA in cooperation with the LGU-Kumalarang shall conduct continuing research and experimentation on the breeding and production of marine species, especially as they apply to local conditions, to discover new methods and technology that shall benefit the fisheries industry.

Section 3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Kumalarang, Province of Zamboanga del Sur, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations. The Local government unit concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

Section 4. Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations on the supervision, monitoring, transfer, or withdrawal by the BFAR of the multi-species marine hatchery.

Section 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,